37

POL 23-9 LIBYA
R65

Department of State

TELEGRAM

CONFIDENTIAL 789

Benghazi 636
9-2-69

PAGE 01 BENGHA 00636 030257Z

88
ACTION AF 18

INFO OCT 01, EUR 17, SSO 00, CCO 00, NSCE 00, USIE 00, CIAE 00, DODE 00,
JPM 04, H 02, INR 07, L 03, NSAE 00, NSC 10, P 03, RSC 01, PRS 01, SS 20,
E 15, ACDA 16, AID 28, UCF 05, RSR 01, /152 W

070584

O 022115Z SEP 69 ZFF3
FM AMEMBASSY BENGHAZI
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 204
INFO AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY BAIDA

DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR
REVIEWED BY [illegible] DATE 12 JUL 1982
RDN[ ] or XDN[ ] EXT. DATE [ ]
TS AUTH. REASON(S) [ ]
ENDORSE EXISTING MARKINGS [ ]
DECLASSIFIED [ ] RELEASABLE [✓]
RELEASE DENIED [ ]
FOI EXEMPTIONS [ ]
PA or FOI EXEMPTIONS [ ]

C O N F I D E N T I A L BENGHAZI 636

C O R R E C T E D C O P Y - TEXT

SUBJECT: SPECIAL MEETING CALLED BY RCC IN BENGHAZI

REF: TRIPOLI 2133 [illegible]

FROM LANE

1. SPECIAL MEETING CALLED BY REVOLUTIONARY COMMAND COUNCIL WAS A DISAPPOINTMENT. MEETING WAS CHAIRED BY SAME ANONYMOUS YOUNG MAN WHO CALLED EMBASSY OFFICE MORNING SEPTEMBER TWO. IN ATTENDANCE WERE UK CHARGE PETER WAKEFIELDN FRENCH CONSUL GAFFORY, GERMAN CONSUL EMSER, GREEK CONSUL DARATZIKIS AND THREE REPRESENTATIVE OF UAR CONSULATE BENGHAZI. ALSO PRESENT IN ADDITION TO MYSELF WAS UNIDENTIFIED YOUNG MAN WHO APPEARED TO BE REPRESENTATIVE OF LIBYAN NEWS AGENCY. THERE WERE NO REPRESENTATIVES FROM TUNISIA, MOROCCO, USSR OR YUGOSLAVIA WHICH ALSO HAVE DIPLOMATIC/CONSULAR OFFICES IN BENGHAZI.

2. REPRESENTATIVE OF RCC OPENED MEETING BY READING STATEMENT ADDRESSED TO QUOTE REPRESENTATIVE OF DIPLOMATIC MISSIONS IN THE LIBYAN ARAB REPUBLIC UNQTE. TEXT OF STATEMENT IDENICAL TO THAT TRANSMITTED BENGHAZI 631 IN RESPONSE TO QUESTION BY BRITISH CHARGE WAKEFIELD. RCC SAID THIS SAME STATEMENT WAS ALSO ADDRESSED TO REPRESENTATIVES OF DIPLOMATIC MISSIONS IN TRIPOLI YESTERDAY. AFTER READING

(1)

CONFIDENTIAL

DECLASSIFIED

Department of State **TELEGRAM**

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 BENGHA 00636 030257Z

STATEMENT, RCC REP ASKED FOR QUESTIONS OR COMMENTS.

3. GERMAN, FRENCH, AND GREEK REPS WERE PRIMARILY CONCERNED ABOUT COMMUNICATIONS THEY HAVE NONE AT PRESENT). RCC REP SAID THEY AWARE OF PROBLEMS AND WERE WORKING ON THEM, BUT MADE NO PROMISES REGARDING WHEN TELEPHONE.TELEGRAPH, AIRLINE AND SHIPPING SERVICES WOULD BE RESTORED. I STRESSED IMPORTANCE PROTECTION OF FOREIGNERS AND THEIR PROPERTY WHICH WAS SUPPORTED BY BRITISH CHARGE WAKEFIELD WHO REFERRED TO GOOD PUBLICITY RCC HAD RECEIVED SO FAR BECAUSE OF ITS EFFORTS IN THIS AREA. RCC REP PROMISED THEY WOULD DO THEIR BEST. WHEN ASKED IF CURFEW WOULD AGAIN BE LIFTED FOR SHORT PERIOD SEPTEMBER 3, RCC REP IMPLIED THAT IT WOULD BUT AGAIN MADE NO PROMISE.

4. GENERAL ATMOSPHERE OF MEETING, WHICH WAS HELD IN SMALL ROOM AT BENLGAZI RADIO/TV HEADQUARTERS, WAS INFORMAL AND FRIENDLY. RCC REP AGAIN ASSURED US PURPOSE OF REVOLUTION WAS TO CORRECT "INTERNAL BACKWARDNESS" AND THAT NEW GOVERNMENT WISHED MAINTAIN CORDIAL RELATIONS WITH ALL FOREIGN GOVERNMENTS. IN BRIEF PRIVATE CONVERSATION I HAD WITH HIM FOLLOWING OFFICIAL MEETING, HE AGAIN REFUSED TO GIVE HIS NAME OR TITLE. I HAD NO OPPORTUNITY FOR PRIVATE DISCUSSIONS WITH ANY OF MY COLLEGUES FOLLOWING THE MEETING BUT I HAVE APPOINTMENT TO CALL ON BRITISH CHARGE WAKEFIELD AT 11:00 SEPTEMBER 3 IF CURFEW IS OFF AT THAT TIME. BLAKE

CONFIDENTIAL

DECLASSIFIED